**disABILITY *LINK* – Legislative and Public Policy Advocacy and Education – Brief Report**

**July to September 2014**

**Voter Registration and Education Campaign:**

* Event scheduled for Monday, September 22 at disABILITY LINK – guests to include representatives from DeKalb County Office of Elections
* Community events also scheduled up to October 6 (registration deadline for voting in the November 4 elections)

**ADA 25:**

* Collaborating with other organizations to plan and execute “ADA 25 Georgia”
* disABILITY LINK leading the plans for a “human flag” (with the universal symbol of access) for some time in the first half of 2015
* disABILITY LINK to hold a series of other events (e.g., history classes, etc.)

**Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA):**

* Celebrating! – this is a major move forward for the Independent Living Movement
* See <http://www.ncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/PolicyPrioritiesJuly2014.pdf> and the separate presentation (from staff who attended The Nation Council on Independent Living, NCIL, Conference 2014)
* On July 29th, attended a rally at the US Capitol and hand delivered to every US Representative and Senator from Metro Atlanta (and all but one from Georgia), a thank you for WIOA and information about legislative and advocacy priorities, and information about disABILITY LINK

**Community First Choice Option (CFC):**

* In discussion with national disability community leaders to promote CFC – Georgia is a “target” state
* Wrote letter to the State Medicaid Agency to request adoption of the Community First Option – asked them to undertake a cost analysis
* Working with other Georgia organizations to “follow up” the request
* More info at <http://kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/section-1915k-community-first-choice-state-plan-option/>

**The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD):**

* Participating in several teleconferences with national disability community leaders in the efforts to ratify CRPD
* Collaborating with other organizations in Georgia (SILC, CLD, People First, etc.) for citizens to contact the Georgia Senators, Isakson and Chambliss, and encourage their vote for ratification of the CRPD
* Participated in an “action” in the Hart Senate Office Building in Washington DC, to bring attention to the urgent need for CRPD ratification
* On July 29th, attended a rally at the US Capitol and hand delivered to every US Representative and Senator from Metro Atlanta (and all but one from Georgia), to request support for the CRPD ratification
* Continue to share information about the upcoming “window of opportunity” for CRPD ratification
* Hosting a “pop in” event on Thursday, September 4 (immediately after Nothing About Us Without Us Event) for help with information and to contact Senators Isakson and Chambliss (see separate information)
* Made an appointment to meet with Isakson, or his staff, (with other leaders in the GA disability community) at his Atlanta office on Friday, August 29
* More info at <http://www.disabilitytreaty.org/crpd>